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COUNTRY East Germany [REDACTED]

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC Volkspolizei Luft

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT 1 to 20 July 1953 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 13 August 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 20 July 1953, rations for about 200 men were issued daily at the quartering buildings of the VPL headquarters in Berlin-Johannisthal. The former ration strength was between 550 and 600. Personnel still stationed in Johannisthal included a contingent of the guard detail; the personnel section; and a contingent of the rear services. The chiefs and section chiefs Kessler (fnu), Zorn (fnu), Lehweß-Litzmann (fnu), Schroeder (fnu), and Franke (fnu) were transferred. An additional six soldiers with red collar patches were also observed in the quarters. Source could not determine, however, whether these soldiers belonged to an advance detail as was previously reported. It was rumored among the VPL personnel that the Ministry of the Interior, at least, part of it would move into the quarters. 1

2. Between 17 and 19 June, the VPL headquarters personnel and civilian employees were restricted to quarters. Food became scarce. On 18 June, a truck loaded with potatoes was overturned by the demonstrators before reaching the VPL quarters. Contingents of the guard detail which left on two busses for an exercise in the Mueggel mountains on 18 June had to return to their quarters, after glass panes in the bus were smashed by demonstrators. All VPL personnel were issued submachine guns. The guard was reinforced. 25X1

3. The training course for former pilots [REDACTED] was to start on 4 July 1953 was postponed. This measure was probably due to the fact that the technical personnel from the school at Kamenz, who were to maintain the Yak-18s and Yak-11s, allegedly had not yet reached the required status of training and, therefore, would be under Soviet supervision for another four weeks. Three senior lieutenants who arrived in Cottbus on 10 July to take part in the training course stated that only nine student pilots who were either beginners or former fighter pilots were accepted on 23 May 1953, while former pilots of multi-engine planes and blind-flying pilots, although found fit, were not accepted. Informants further stated that, in addition to the nine accepted student pilots, two members

25X1

CLASSIFICATION

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25X1

25X1

SECRET/

- 2 -

25X1A

of the division headquarters and four men from Kamenz airfield were to take part in the training course. The training schedule provided for theoretical training together with the pilots who were unfit for MiG-15s and subsequent practical training at Kamenz. Training was to be conducted by a training regiment designated Unit 500.

4. Those pilots of the three regiments of the 1st VPL Div who were to fly MiG-15s were given a 12-day leave, beginning on 9 July. No information was available which type of plane was to be used for training purpose after late July.
5. The radar sets which had been made available for the 1st VPL Div were returned to the Soviets and shipped to Potsdam in early July. Some of the Soviet flight instructors were also withdrawn. These steps were allegedly due to economy measures. 3
6. Previous information that the runway mats at Bautzen airfield proved unsuitable was confirmed. On test landings by MiG-15s, fragments of rubber were torn from the wheels as, allegedly, the intervals between the grooves in the runway mats were too large. It was said that the runway with these mats is serviceable only for slow aircraft. Rumors in the headquarters of the 1st VPL Div said that these mats were to be removed and replaced by a concrete cover. 4

25X1A

1. Comment. Possibly, only the operations section of the VPL headquarters was previously transferred from Berlin-Johannisthal to Cottbus and quartered in the former Funker Kaserne outside Cottbus airfield.

25X1A

2. Comment. This training course was previously reported. Pilots of the former German Air Force are to be trained in this course. In the future, basic training of new VPL pilots is to be conducted by a basic pilot school in Kamenz, in order to relieve of this duty the VPL regiments. The numerical designation "500" was previously known to be assigned to the VPL military basic training school in Kamenz. Following the practice of the former German Air Force, basic pilot training is presumably to be conducted by this school.

25X1A

3. Comment. Several observations were made indicating that the issuance of modern equipment and aircraft to the VPL is to be limited, if not stopped, or cancelled altogether because of the occurrences of 17 June 1953. There are further indications that the Soviet training regiment has generally fulfilled its training mission and was again equipped with MiG-15s. At present, the regiment is probably stationed in Welzow.

25X1A

25X1A

4. Comment. Bautzen airfield had not been reoccupied by an air unit prior to 6 July 1953.

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